

Intimations.

The fact is, however, that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, which has been the mainstay of the colony, is now in a position to pay dividends to its shareholders.

It should like to know what regulations, if any, will be made for the carrying of proper life-saving apparatus on steam-launches plying in the harbour. Yesterday's fatal collision points to the necessity for some supervision being exercised over the numerous small passenger launches plying between the various points in Hongkong, Kowloon, etc., as life-buoys on these boats are generally either conspicuous by their absence, or, if carried, are stowed away in some corner where they cannot be easily got at in case of emergency. We fancy that the Harbour Department would be considerably astonished at the inadequacy of the life-saving gear on the great majority of the launches were surprise visits paid to them occasionally. How many life-buoys did the ill-fated police launch carry, for instance? And how many were on board the *Lau Fai*?

THE FATAL COLLISION.

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.
At the Magistrate's Court this afternoon, before Capt. Hargrave, the case of the collision between the launch *Lau Fai* and the launch *Wing Kwan*, was heard. The launch *Lau Fai*, owned by Mr. W. W. Wong, was charged with having navigated the vessel in a negligent and dangerous manner, with no proper lookout, thereby running down and sinking the police launch No. 4, and causing the death of P. C. Chan Pul, No. 372, who was on duty in Victoria Harbour.

Inspector Hanson conducted the prosecution and Mr. Master appeared for the defence. Mr. Chan, engineer of the police launch, deposed that he had been an engineer for three years. He was on the launch at 2 a.m. on the 17th when she was about 200 yards from Jade's Wharf and steering starboard. The launch was in the fairway. Witness was offing there at 3 a.m. and heard a launch call out to the stern. Immediately after he heard their whistle blow one blast. Witness got up and as he did so the launch collided with the police launch. The launch then began to take in water and afterwards sank. Witness jumped overboard and saw the launch sink. The launch was at half past 3 a.m. when it was seen. Witness held a lifebuoy thrown from the launch, and all except deceased got on board the launch. While coming from Kennedy-town the launch's forward doors were opened several times and the reflection of the fire could be seen on the awning. While in the water a voice on the launch asked what vessel had been seen. There was no other steam launch near. Witness further stated that there were two lamps in the engine room below the combings; the moon was visible and he saw it when the launch was at half past 3 a.m. and a slight light. He had seen deceased's body at the Morgue, the elbows were bent and one hand grasped the queue.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

Lovers of music mustered in strong force at St. George's Hall last night when the Hongkong Philharmonic Society gave their first concert of the season. The hall was filled and among those present were His Excellency the Governor and Captain Sir James D. B. Stewart. The programme was a most successful one. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. G. P. Lamont, was heard to splendid advantage in execution and time. Kücken's "Good-night, Farewell" had a pleasing rendering by Mr. E. E. Hill, and he was warmly applauded. Mr. G. P. Lamont and chorus sang the well-known drinking song from "Cavalleria Rusticana" and the number was heartily appreciated. The solo and chorus alike being capably rendered. Miss Coxon, who is a warm favourite with Hongkong audiences, sang two exquisite little French songs, "Le Souper" and "Le Chant du Matin." In both numbers the soloist was heard to splendid advantage and the rounds of applause and the hearty recalls she received testified to the appreciation of the audience. Miss Coxon kindly complied with one recall and her hearers parted with her very reluctantly. A minuet and trio and Allegro Vivace from Meyer's "Symphony in C Minor" (Orchestral arrangement), was given with good taste by the orchestra, Mr. A. G. Ward being a most efficient conductor. The second part opened with a "Choral Fantasia on National Melodies," arranged by G. E. Vicent. The songs introduced were—"Let charming beauty's health go round," "Believe me, I'll love thee as long as I live," "The banks of Allan Water," "My love, she's but a little while," "Charlie's my darling," "The girl I left behind me," "Hey! to the maiden of bashful fifteen," "Come, lassies and lads," and "Fugate, leading up to 'The Walls' (J. Saville, 1873). This proved a very popular number and the city music of the evening was most enjoyed. The vocalists acquitted themselves throughout in an entirely satisfactory manner. For her artistic rendering of the song "My Darkest Heart" (Sullivan) Mrs. Vallings won well-merited praise, and the recall she received unmistakably indicated the pleasure the talented vocalist had afforded her audience. Mr. W. G. Bentley, A.R.C.M., the popular bandmaster of the West Yorks, played a clarinet solo, "Concerto in C Minor, Op. 25" (Weber), and his skill as an instrumentalist was abundantly evident. Scarcely has this difficult instrument been heard to such great advantage, and it is safe to say that many had no idea of its wonderful capabilities in the hands of a master like Mr. Bentley. The recall was inevitable, when another fine selection was given. The Hungarian folk songs, "Roses in the Garden," and "Look into my eye, come near" (arranged by Korbay) attracted Mr. E. E. Hill further scope for the display of his talent as a vocalist and for each number he had well-earned much of the applause. The concluding number was a charming "Dance Suite" from the incidental music in "Henry VIII" and comprised the Morris Dance, the Shepherd's Dance, and the Torch Dance. The quiet and pretty music, which was much admired, had skillful interpretation by the orchestra and spoke volumes for the pains taken in rehearsing. Mr. A. G. Ward, who acted in able manner as conductor, also shared with Mr. C. G. Gordon the work of accompanist and soloist in this important function contributed to the success of the entertainment. A number of members of the West Yorks Band lent valuable aid in the orchestra with wind and percussion instruments and Misses Humphreys, L. Crawford, and Miss acquired themselves very creditably as second vocalists. The Hongkong Philharmonic Society is certainly to be congratulated on the successful manner in which it has opened the season, but we prefer to await the second concert before publishing a lengthy critique.

SPORTING NEWS.
The MANTUO STAKES, a forced entry of \$10 each with \$50 added, divided 70, 20, and 10 per cent to the first, second, and third ponies; for bona fide beaten subscription geldings that have not won a race; weights as per scale. One mile.

Septimus 1
Acrobat 2
Time, 2 mins. 19 sec.

The CONSOLATION CUP, value \$100; for all second place beaten China ponies that have run at this meeting; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile.

Mephisto 1
Fandango 2
Hobson 3
Time, 2 mins. 18 sec.

The CHAMPION STAKES, of \$10 each with \$50 added; for open and for open only to winners at this meeting, optional for the winners of the Hack, Mantu Stakes, and Consolation Cup; winners of two races at this meeting \$15 extra of more than two races \$40 extra; weights as per scale; entrance \$5 and a quarter.

Nihil 1
Democrat 2
Raspberry 3
Time, 2 mins. 14 sec.

WATER STAKES, of \$5 each with \$50 added; for all China ponies; weight 12 stone; non-runners at this meeting allowed 10 lbs. Three-quarters of a mile.

Leander 1
Cranberry 2
Zaporozh 3
Time, 1 min. 45 sec.

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB v. R. C. W. Y.
This match was played yesterday afternoon on the Club's ground at Happy Valley, the wind blowing down the valley so as to favour the team playing with it to a slight extent. The teams were composed as follows:—*Hongkong Club*—J. R. Gillingham, goal; E. H. Bessley and D. Wood, backs; H. W. Slade, H. Pinckney, and P. H. Kew, halves; J. H. Head, R. A. J. D. Doherty, W. D. Mayson, H. W. Looker, and A. D. H. Grayson, R.A.s forward. *West Yorks*—P. Wheeler, goal; P. Walton and P. Shoyer, backs; J. P. Munton, P. Foster and P. Marshall, halves; C. P. Bird, P. Walsh, S. H. Howard, P. Miller and P. Wales, forwards.

The Club kicked off, with the wind, and speedily took the ball to the Yorks' goal, where they obtained a corner, which was neatly kicked by Slade, but not converted. The Yorks then set away with the ball, but the Club were quickly on it again and brought it to the Yorks' goal, but missed the shot. Two corners then followed for the Club, which were kicked by Looker and Slade respectively, but, although well placed, nothing resulted from them, except a shot by Grayson, which missed. The Yorks then had another try at their opponents' goal, but without success, and, after a fast run, another corner was claimed by the Club and, being capably placed almost in goal by Looker, was converted by Doherty and the Club scored their first goal. The Yorks then took the ball to the Club's goal and gained a corner which, however, saved by Gillingham. The Yorks managed to keep the play well in the vicinity of the Club's goal for some time, but without result, and Mayson getting away tried for the Yorks' goal and missed. The ball then travelled up to the Club's goal and down again and some hot work took place in front of the Yorks' goal, which was three times narrowly saved by their custodian. The Yorks at last set away with the ball, and after a good run forced the Club's defences and made matters equal. The Club then brought the ball to the Yorks' goal and Mayson shot, but the goalkeeper was on the spot and kicked out. One of the Yorks' backs in the way the ball was returned off him and the Club scored their second goal by a fluke. Play then became general between the opposite goals, until the Club got away and pressed the Yorks' defences hard; a corner kick by Slade being saved by the goalkeeper, and after a deal of hot work round the goal half-time was called, the scores standing, Club 2 goals, Yorks 1 goal.

On play being resumed, the game fluctuated between the two goals until time was almost up, when Grayson made a fast run up to the Yorks' goal and shot, but the goalkeeper fished it out, and some warm work took place round the goal, until Looker scored by a quick shot. On the ball being kicked off again, the Club adopted the same tactics and this time Grayson scored. Time was called shortly after, leaving the Club the victors, by four goals to one.

The Colts will play the R.E. to-morrow under Association rules. Kick off at 2 p.m. The following will represent the Colts:—*Forwards*, A. A. Ross, J. A. Logan, R. Henderson, H. A. Seib, S. A. Seib, Halverson, T. Yule, P. H. Kew, Heydon, backs, W. A. Stopani, N. Gansler, goal, H. Hilday.

THE MERCANTILE MARINE FUND.

LARGE PROFITS AT THE EXPENSE OF SHIPOWNERS.

The following is the report of the Committee of the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association appointed to consider the report of the Departmental Committee:—
The Committee, having carefully considered the Departmental Committee's report, are of opinion that the Association should at once take such steps as may be necessary to draw the attention of the Government to the injustice that has been, and is being, inflicted upon the shipowners, under the cover of the Mercantile Marine Fund, with a view to the immediate remedying thereof.

It is to be regretted that the Departmental Committee did not feel justified (having regard to the terms of their reference) in expressing an opinion upon the all-important question of whether or not the lighting of the coast is a national duty, and as such to be performed and paid for by the country at large, and not by only one particular class of the shipowners.

It would appear to the Committee of this Association that the Departmental Committee are mistaken in the opinion they have formed, that the burden of the light dues and of the cost of maintaining the Mercantile Marine offices and the Board of Trade surveyors falls, not on the shipowners, but upon all those for whom the services of the Merchant Shipping are maintained. If this conclusion were justified by the facts (which your Committee are satisfied it is) it would follow that it is inadvisable whether these duties are imposed on the

National Exchequer or on the shipowners. If the conclusion cannot be justified, then the injustice consists of imposing on one particular class the burden of performing what are essentially national duties.

Apert from these general questions, the Departmental Committee have dealt exhaustively with the matters submitted to them. They find that, as at present managed, there is no direct Parliamentary control either of the separate subjects of expenditure or separate sources of income of the fund, and that the guarantee of economy provided by the existing system are untrustworthy.

Their report proves—
1. That a large profit has been made by the country out of the lighting of the coast.
From the figures given in the report it will be seen that from 1888 to 1895 the shipowners were charged in light dues £3,585,125 whilst the total amount spent in lighting the coast was only 2,774,995

there being, in the seven years, an excess of receipts over expenditure of £811,130

The country has, therefore, for the last seven years made a profit at the expense of the shipowners, at its light dues, at the rate of £115,817 per annum.

2. The present complicated and, in many instances, arbitrary system of fixing the light dues, inflicts serious injustice in particular cases, and acts as a restraint on the free development of trade.

The Departmental Committee, in their report, give a number of illustrations of the ways in which the beneficial development of trade is hampered by the system as now regulated, and in the face of this evidence it cannot longer be contended that the complaints of the shipowners are without justification.

3. That the net cost of the services transferred to the Mercantile Marine Fund, under the Act of 1882, have, up to the end of 1895, exceeded by £158,311 the contribution made under that Act by the Exchequer.

The Act of 1882 was introduced at the end of the Session by Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. John Holmes. It was accompanied by an explanatory memorandum, in which the following, amongst other statements, were made:—

The following arrangement has been made between the Treasury and the Board of Trade for the purpose of simplifying accounts and improving administration.

At present the Public Exchequer and the Mercantile Marine Fund, the effect of the arrangement will be to leave the gross amount paid on either side as nearly as possible the same as at present, but to make the payments in a less troublesome and more convenient form, and to appropriate to the respective funds those items of income and expenditure which properly belong to them.

As regards shipping, the effect will be to relieve them from a charge of £70,000 a year.

The shipping fees were abolished under the Act, and the Departmental Committee's report shows that the effect of the abolition was to cause a serious deficiency in the Fund, and that this deficiency was made up by an increase in the light dues.

The shipping fees were contributed to by the shipowners and the seamen; the light dues are paid by the shipowners alone. The effect, therefore, of the Act has been to relieve the seamen at the expense of the shipowners, and the Exchequer has, under the Act which was introduced for the purpose of simplifying accounts and of relieving shipping from a charge of £70,000 a year, made a profit out of the shipowners of £158,311.

September, 1896.

SANITARY BOARD REFORM.

IN INDIA THE BOARDS MEET THE NEEDS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

The Resolution of the Government of India in December 1895, in which the question of reorganisation of the sanitary services throughout India was set forth, has apparently remained a dead letter with certain of the Local Governments. This is not, however, the case with the North-West Provinces, where the sanitary services have long held a prominent place in the administration. Acting on the lines of reform sketched by the Government of India, a series of changes have been determined upon. Dealing in the first place with the Sanitary Board, the Government in alluding to its past work shows that it has fulfilled the function hitherto required of it as a consultative body, and must now pass onwards to the sequel of evolution to the stage of performing administrative work. For this purpose, certain funds are to be placed at its disposal. It has been consequently determined to strengthen the Board by adding to its members. It will have the assistance of one of the two Secretaries in the Department of Public Works, the Sanitary Commissioner, and the Sanitary Engineer—the latter being Secretary. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals will hold the post of president. The Board, besides ordinary meetings for the conduct of its business, will meet once a year in each division. Here the Commissioner of the Division, the District Magistrate, the Civil Surgeon, District Engineer, and a delegate from the District Board will also sit as members, whilst sanitary business connected with districts in their charge are actually under discussion. The constitution of the Board thus settled upon seems well suited to meet the needs of self-government, which the Board must ultimately subserve. It will secure that local bodies spending money shall not have their opinions ridden over roughed by a single Sanitary Officer or sanitary engineer.

Notwithstanding our sympathies being with our own profession, we cannot help thinking that the presidentship of this important organisation has rightly been given to the head of the Medical Department of the Province concerned. It is too often forgotten by the special branch of the profession devoting itself to "Sanitary Engineering" that whilst members place at their disposal their knowledge for meeting the conditions required by the sanitarian, they do not evolve the theories upon which remedial measures are founded. These can only be formulated by specialists in sanitation, and the task of meeting these conditions by sound engineering skill is of itself sufficient, without endeavouring to ally with it administration in matters sanitary. The administrative functions of the new Board are thus defined:—

Under rules about to be issued to define the procedure of Municipal Boards with regard to the preparation and execution of public works projects, the Sanitary Board will be the adviser of the Commissioner of the division as to whether administrative sanction should be given or withheld when projects of a sanitary character are submitted to him for sanction. With regard to sanitary works undertaken by District Boards, the Sanitary Board will give administrative sanction to all works towards the cost of which it may contribute from funds placed by Government at its disposal for this purpose. It will also advise the Commissioner of the division as to giving or withholding administrative sanction to other projects of a sanitary nature proposed to be executed out of

the District Board funds alone, when the estimated cost exceeds Rs. 1,000 and does not exceed Rs. 10,000.

In the matter of executive agency, it has been resolved that the Civil Surgeon, assisted by a special sanitary assistant, should be the Chief Sanitary Officer of his District, that the vaccination staff be educated up to a pitch to aid in sanitary work, and that a re-distribution of registration circles be effected, so that supervision of birth and death registration will be more completely under control of the Civil Surgeon. These points having been attended to, it is contemplated to conduct a sanitary survey of each rural circle, municipalities and cantonments being excluded as already forming separate units; a sub-circle will contain not less than 10,000 inhabitants and not more than 15,000. The Sanitary Survey is to take the form of brief reports prepared by the Civil Surgeon or his Assistant, or by an Assistant Magistrate reporting to the Civil Surgeon while under training. With information thus gathered the Sanitary Board will be in a position to guide expenditure by District Boards in the all-important matter of construction and repair of water-supply sources helped by grants-in-aid by the Sanitary Board. To this end, it is required that all District Boards shall make an annual contribution. In the matter of securing general cleanliness and drawing up rules for prevention of contamination of water-supplies, combined with the appointment of places for storage of household refuse and manure, and the regulation of butcheries and offensive trades, aid is looked for in great part from control by Panchayats under the Village Sanitation Act, which will be modified to suit requirements. The Sanitary Board's functions will not be confined to merely work in rural areas, but the subject of Municipal sanitation will also be considered by it. Altogether, we think the Resolution is based on sound grounds; and if there be no doubt about the appointment of the Sanitary Assistant to the Civil Surgeon (as to which we detect rather a dubious tone, in that it is apparently open to subsequent decision whether all districts will be so supplied), there is every reason to congratulate the North-West Provinces on being the first in India to take decided steps in the long-promised matter of sanitary reform.

Another matter that we think should not be open to doubt is the amount of the grant that the District Boards are expected to pay for rural sanitation. This should be fixed at a definite rate per cent. on the total income, otherwise progress will be fitful and dependent upon the varying grade of interest taken in the sanitary advances by District Boards.—*Indian Engineering*, November 21st.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

SUPREME COURT.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(Before His Lordship Dr. J. W. Carrington, C.M.G., Chief Justice.)

December 18th.

INDICENT ASSAULT.

Wallace Edgar Fleming, a stoker from H.M.S. *Centurion*, was placed on trial charged with having indecently assaulted a girl named Ada Bain on the 26th November. The Attorney-General (Mr. W. M. Goodman) conducted the case for the Crown. Accused was unrepresented.

The following was the jury:—Messrs J. M. Ribeiro, W. Whalley, William George, E. A. Hamman, W. Lyndhurst, F. M. Gray and R. K. McQuinn.

In his address to the jury the Attorney-General stated the facts of the case, saying that the girl Bain was a barmaid at the Grand Hotel. On the night of the alleged assault the girl had been dancing with the prisoner. The effect of the assault was that she had to go to the hospital and receive treatment by Dr. Atkinson for several days. Counsel said he understood that the defence would be that the prosecutrix was a consenting party, but even if that were proved there could be no defence to the count of unlawfully finding.

Ada Fleming Bain, the prosecutrix, said she came to Hongkong from Australia about two years ago, and was engaged as a barmaid at the Grand Hotel. She then detailed the nature of the offence, the evidence being unimpaired.

Inspector Wiltchell, P.C. McSwade, the German barman, Dr. Atkinson, and other witnesses were examined and accused made a statement, after which his Lordship summed up the evidence.

The jury then retired to consider their verdict, and after a short absence returned with a verdict of "not guilty" on all three counts.

KIDNAPING.

Leung Ng, the wife of a man sentenced at the last session for illegal detention of a girl, was placed on her trial charged with having kidnapped the girl in question.

The Attorney-General conducted the prosecution. After hearing evidence, the jury decided that accused was guilty and his Lordship sentenced her to 18 months' hard labour.

THE MCKINLEY CASE.
The hearing of the charge of forgery against the man McKinley has been fixed for the 29th inst at 10 a.m.

THE PRICE OF THE TELEGRAPH CONVENTION.

A few somewhat important details respecting the recent Telegraph Convention between the Cable Companies and the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration have reached us, which are of interest to the public, but more especially to the Chamber of Commerce and the other bodies representing commercial interests in China and Hongkong, which have taken upon themselves the heat and burden of the day in resisting the almost overwhelming forces now arrayed against the interest of respectable telegraph rates from the Far East. In the new arrangement by which all the hopes of the Chinese system of land-lines taking advantage of their geographical position to force the hands of the Cable Companies in the matter of lowering rates are abandoned for our time at least. Some concessions have been made by the Administration to the Cable Companies, which at first sight are inappreciable, as no *quid pro quo* is disclosed. Knowing what we do of the Chinese character, of its native skill in driving a bargain, and of the adroitness of Sheng Tsai, the chief manipulator of the wires, it is difficult to discover, unless it is something that can be readily stowed away beyond the range of ordinary vision, where he can easily lay his hand upon it, what he has gained by placing the entire Chinese telegraph system at the mercy of the Cable Companies. Of one thing we may rest assured, that whatever Sheng has given away he has exacted the full price for it; no matter how the price is concealed or in whose pocket it may go. But on the face of it, it is not easily discernable, though the Chinese are not loath to assign a ready explanation which is eminently in keeping with what we know of the character of Sheng. Amongst other things the Cable Companies, who have hitherto paid an annual rental to the Chinese Administration for the use of the short line connecting Shanghai with

Woo-sung, are now given the free use of that line for a long time, by which the yearly rental is compensated at once. A question which will

here naturally arise is, who has got the advantage of this composition? Is it the Administration as a whole or some individual? We confess we are not in a position to reply, but the Chinese have no hesitation in furnishing an answer in favour of Sheng. It is quite true that the Cable Companies on the other hand concede the privilege to the Chinese Administration of the free use of the Hongkong-Kowloon cable, which at first sight would seem a sufficient set-off against what has been given away in the north; but when we know that the Chinese lines are further bound to hand over to the Cable Companies every message given in inland telegraph stations and addressed to places beyond China, and virtually thereby transfers one of the most important sovereign rights, the control of the communications, the precise value of the Cable Companies' equivalent for the freedom of the Shanghai-Woo-sung line is more apparent. We rather fancy that the privilege of free transit of Chinese messages over the short cable between Kowloon and Hongkong is confined to Chinese Government messages and messages from the interior of China to Chinese in Hongkong, for it is certain, according to our information, that the Chinese have voluntarily abandoned their connection with outside telegraph systems and given up working their lines to Helampoa and Hunchun, joining the Russian system at these places. It is also pretty well known that during the short time the former line was working (it is said handsomely) it must, therefore, have taken a good deal to induce Sheng to give it up, but whatever the price and whatever got it, the undisputed fact is that it has been paid in some form for the very valuable consideration given by the Cable Companies in return for the apparent generosity of Sheng. On the other hand the public, who hand in messages at the Chinese offices for transmission abroad, may now be assured that they will reach their destination and in a recognisable form, a circumstance only within the region of bare chance when the Chinese Administration had the sole control of messages from inland stations and from the Cable ports, while the war between the Companies and the Administration was in progress.—*China Gazette*.

SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAILS DUE.

French (.....) 22nd inst.

Indian (.....) 22nd inst.

Amoy (.....) 25th inst.

American (.....) 25th inst.

Australian (.....) 25th inst.

English (.....) 30th inst.

Canadian (.....) 30th inst.

The Mutual Line steamship *Chingwo*, from Glasgow and Liverpool, left Singapore for this port yesterday afternoon, and may be expected here on or about the 23rd inst.

SHIPPING RETURNS.

From 5 p.m. yesterday to 5 p.m. to-day.

ARRIVALS.

Sabine Richmond, steamer, from Foochow

Triumph, " " " " " " " "

Chilody, " " " " " " " "

Fookshing, " " " " " " " "

Pakistan, " " " " " " " "

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SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAILS DUE.

French (.....)

